

Please accept this email as my strong support of H.B. 5530. My son is a vegetarian, a passionate animal lover, and aspires to be a scientist. Were he required to harm and dissect an animal, I am certain these aspirations would change. Forcing a student to dissect an animal can interfere with the ability to learn the required information, cause a student psychological trauma, and even discourage a student from pursuing a career in science. The following facts further support the enactment of such legislation:

- Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies.
- Modern alternatives to dissection like computer programs, DVDs, and models have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as or better than dissection.
- Alternatives to dissection save teachers and schools time and money because they last for years and do not need to be re-ordered for each class.
- Fifteen states—including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York—have laws or policies allowing students to opt out of dissection.

Please support this worthwhile legislation which will enable students who are passionate about science and have an affinity for animals to pursue their dreams. Humanity and science can and should be symbiotic and no student's dreams should be stymied because he or she exercises humane choices.

Many thanks for your attention and please emphasize my strong support for this bill.

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